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Message Text

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INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 170597

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECON,EAID,PINT,PFOR,BY

SUBJECT: PROPOSED ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR BURUNDI

REF: (A) DRAFT PARA; (B) STATE 12336; (C) CUTLER/MARK
23 JUNE 1975 LETTER

1. TO BETTER EVALUATE THE PARA OBJECTIVE OF EVOLVING A MODEST US ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY COMMENT AND SUPPORTING JUSTIFICATION AS APPROPRIATE ON THE FOLLOWING POINTS. WE WOULD APPRECIATE A RESPONSE BY JULY 28. CLEARLY, THESE MATTERS SHOULD NOT BE DISCUSSED WITH THE GRB, AND THE NATURE OF THESE QUESTIONS SHOULD NOT MAKE THE EMBASSY UNDULY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A PROGRAM FOR BURUNDI.

A. IN VIEW OF BURUNDI'S LONG RECORD OF SUPPORTING POSITIONS CONSIDERED INIMICAL TO US INTERESTS IN INTER-NATIONAL FORUMS AND ELSEWHERE, IS THERE ANY INDICATION THAT AN AID PROGRAM ON THE SCALE PROPOSED WILL CHANGE THE GRB'S CONFIDENTIAL

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BASIC STANCE ON SUCH ISSUES, OR WILL AT LEAST INDUCE THE GRB TO BE MORE EVEN-HANDED IN ITS ASSESSMENT OF ISSUES OF MARGINAL IMPORTANCE TO BURUNDI?

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B. DO PROPOSED US INVESTMENTS IN NICKEL OR OTHER INDUSTRIES IN BURUNDI REALLY PROVIDE SIGNIFICANT REASONS FOR INTRODUCTION OF AN AID PROGRAM? AND, HOW WOULD SUCH A PROGRAM STRENGTHEN A US INVESTOR'S POSITION VIS-A-VIS THE GRB?

C. WHAT EVIDENCE IS THERE THAT THE GRB IS WILLING OR ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AN AID PROGRAM OF THE PROPOSED MAGNITUDE WHEN THEY HAVE BEEN UNRESPONSIVE TO THE EMBASSY'S PEACE CORPS INITIATIVE, UNCOOPERATIVE IN ASSISTING WITH THE SELF-HELP PROJECT AT TIMES, AND SLOW TO DEAL WITH PROBLEMS WHICH IMPEDED OPERATION OF THE PL-480 PROGRAM?

D. REF A SUGGESTS THAT AN AID PROGRAM WOULD HAVE SOME BENEFICIAL EFFECTS ON THE HUTU/TUTSI RELATIONSHIPS. IS IT REALISTIC TO EXPECT AN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO THAT PROBLEM? OR IS THE TASK OF RECONCILIATION TOO SENSITIVE TO SUGGEST THIS AS EVEN AN INDIRECT GOAL FOR ANY NEW AID PROGRAM?

E. WHAT ARE THE CURRENT GRB ATTITUDES, DESIRES AND EFFORTS WITH RESPECT TO DEVELOPMENT. DO YOU SENSE A

FUNDAMENTAL COMMITMENT WHICH MIGHT BE EVIDENCED BY BUDGET ALLOCATIONS, GOVERNMENT POLICIES, ETC? IN GENERAL, WHAT KINDS OF DEVELOPMENT PLANNING ARE IN PROCESS?

F. GIVEN THE THRUST OF THE CONGRESSIONAL MANDATE IN THE AREAS OF AGRICULTURE, HEALTH AND EDUCATION, AND AGAINST THE PLIGHT OF THE RURAL POOR, ARE THESE DIRECTIONS OF INTEREST TO GRB. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THE INCIDENCE OF BENEFITS FROM POTENTIAL US ASSISTANCE COULD REACH THE RURAL POOR. HAS THE GRB ARTICULATED ITS GENERAL DEVELOP-MENT PRIORITIES AND IF SO WHAT ARE THEY?

2. DEPT SUGGEST THAT ANY DISCUSSION OF BURUNDI'S
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ECONOMIC POTENTIAL, THE GRB'S CAPACITY TO ABSORB AID, ITS DEVELOPMENT, OR THE IDENTIFICATION OF SPECIFIC PROJECTS OR PROGRAMS BE DEFERRED UNTIL A DECISION IS REACHED ON WHETHER OR NOT TO PROCEED WITH PLANS FOR A BILATERAL AID PROGRAM AT THIS TIME. KISSINGER

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